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AGRICULTURE.

METHOD OF PUTTING NEW ROOTS TO OLD TREES.

The SILVER ISIS MEDAL was presented to Mr. J. COMMON, of Denwick, Northumberland, for his method of adding New Roots to Old Trees.

THE plan of putting new roots on trees, and taking away all the old ones, is of great utility, for I know by experience that trees are often engrafted on, which, on account of their roots, will not allow the trees to bear the proper quantity of fruit. And the plan of putting new branches on espalier or wall-trees is also of great utility, as a branch is often wanted to finish the tree.

This method of engrafting may be done at any time between April and August, and either with the present year's wood or with wood of several years' growth.

The mode of effecting the addition of a branch to some particular part of the stem is by bending a branch either from the same tree, or from some tree near to it, and inserting the end thereof behind the bark, which is properly cut to receive it, and then tying it carefully round with string ; and it is more certain of taking hold, or growing, than by any other way of engrafting or budding, and as certain, or more certain, than by any other way of inarching.

JOHN COMMON.

Denwick, Northumberland, March 6, 1843.

Two specimens of Mr. Common's mode of adding branches, and two other specimens of adding roots, to trees, are placed in the Society's Repository.

The first specimen shews how a bud or a branch may be put in, and is without any growth, being left loose, in order to exhibit the first part of the operation.

The second specimen has had one summer's growth. The branch should be cut either with a small branch near to its upper end or a bud in the same place, to become a branch; and great care must be taken in tying it on. Neither mud nor clay is required to protect it from the weather: as the swelling of the tree commences, the ties must be carefully removed.

Specimens 3 and 4 are to shew the mode of adding a root to an old tree,—the former pointing out the plan of effecting the operation, the latter shewing one year's growth.

The mode of proceeding in this novel operation, if the tree be small, is to plant a small tree close to it, inarching it, as already mentioned, by bending it over to the original tree, and tying it round as before. The planting of the new tree should be done in the spring, before the year in which the inarching is performed; and when from sufficient growth it has firmly taken hold, the old root may be taken away.

If the tree to be underpinned be of large size, then several small roots are to be planted around it, and each inarched, as already mentioned. When the new roots have strength to carry the tree, the old ones must be taken away by degrees, care being taken to make an incision all round the bark.